Daily Report

Latin America

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Rio Group Meeting With Japanese 'Extraordinarily Positive'

PY0110220893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1954 GMT 28 Sep 93

[Text] United Nations, 28 Sep (EFE)—Enrique Silva Cimma, Chilean foreign minister and coordinator for the Rio Group, termed "extraordinarily positive" the meeting held today, 28 September, between the foreign ministers of the Rio Group and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Tsutomu Hata to strengthen relations between Latin America and Japan.

For the second consecutive year the Rio Group foreign ministers met with their Japanese counterpart on the margins of the UN General Assembly, which they are attending in New York.

According to Latin American diplomatic sources, the Japanese foreign minister will probably travel to Brazil during the first quarter of 1994, returning the visit paid by the so-called "troika" ministers—Chile, Argentina, and Brazil—to Tokyo in May of this year.

Silva Cimma said that contacts with Japan are "becoming increasingly more fruitful," and today's meeting was "definite testimony" to the progress of Japanese and Rio Group "reciprocal interests."

A number of subjects were discussed, including the Uruguay round of the GATT talks and trade between Japan and the Rio Group countries. They also discussed the possibility of holding contacts to study modification of the UN structure.

The Rio Group foreign ministers today scheduled a luncheon to discuss the agenda for their meeting at the summit scheduled for next month in Chile.

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela To Form Agricultural Bloc

PA0310042693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 28 Sep 93

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia will form a common, strategic bloc to negotiate with other nations and thus strengthen their respective productive sectors. That is the goal of the seminar dubbed "Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, Toward a Common Agricultural Development Strategy," which will take place on 6 and 7 October in Santa Fe de Bogota.

The event will be attended by the ministers of agriculture of the three countries; the Cartagena Agreement Board; National Association of Industrialists, ANDI; CAVIDEA [expansion unknown]; National Federation of Agricultural-Livestock Producers, Fedeagro; and other important organizations that are involved with the farming sector.

During the two-day seminar, direct contact will be established between businessmen and agro-industrialists from these nations, who will study the strengths and weaknesses of the free trade area they will attempt to include in the international market. Jose Velasquez of the Colombian Economic Council addressed the issue.

[Begin Velasquez recording] The seminar is an effort to make use of the advantages that each of the countries have to offer in each of the markets. What we are after—I believe this is the ultimate purpose of any integration process—is to give consumers in the three countries easier access to very high quality products at lower prices. In other words, we must lower costs, seek opportunities, which, in fact, already exist and substitute imports from third countries with imports from Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. [end recording]

The meeting, which will be hosted by the neighboring Republic of Colombia, will be attended by representatives from 30 large Venezuelan firms, 70 Ecuadoran firms, and 100 Colombian firms.

Cuba

Robaina Speech to UN General Assembly

FL0410191893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Speech by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina to the 48th General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York—live]

[Text] I come from a free, small, and sovereign island of Latin America. Our predecessors freed themselves from the yoke of a colonial empire and attained an independence that was thwarted, at birth, by the interventionist impositions of a foreign power. I belong to a people who for generations has forged an authentic revolution, which became a hope for other Third World peoples. For these reasons, and as a Caribbean nation, we are doubly proud that you, Mr. President, are chairman of this session. As a son of that South that makes us brothers, we are convinced that that world and its hopes will not be ignored once again. In this just goal, you will surely encounter Cuba's support.

World conditions have changed radically in fewer than five years. Bipolar balance is being replaced by unipolar hegemony. The world finds itself increasingly plagued by contradictions, so far irreconcilable, between word and fact. It is said that the danger of a nuclear holocaust has disappeared while the poverty and underdevelopment that cause misery and death are perpetuated. Millions of men, women, and children die hopelessly each day. It is said that the arms race between the superpowers has ended; yet, more than ever, the race to develop new weapons systems continues and is even placing weapons in space at a gallop.

Today, warlords vie to control the skies without having solved many of the problems of the earth. Paradoxically, they argue a lack of resources to solve these problems while, of their own doing, this world becomes more ungovernable every day. The entire budget of the WHO is equivalent to the cost of three hours of the arms race. How can the famine in Somalia, for example, be mitigated when, for every $1 used to feed the hungry, $10 are spent to maintain the military operations there? It is not enough that there are treaties partially banning nuclear testing, moratoria, or accords for the nonprolification of those weapons. All that is needed is for a single one of them to declare general, total disarmament; and the use of formidable resources would no longer be wasted, but would contribute to the definitive solution of the pressing problems of our planet.

We can say that, unfortunately, the end of the cold war has not solved any of the main problems of mankind but has created many others. There is a trend toward smashing the sacred principles of independent and national sovereignty, guaranteed to only a few powerful countries whose opinions prevail even in this august organization.

The United Nations Organization was created, among other goals, to achieve lasting world peace and justice and equity in international relations. Some things have been accomplished. However, there is still much to do for mankind and for entire peoples. What progress can we speak of as long as the secular problems of the Third World, exacerbated by the stagnation of development aid, persist and intensify? Will there be real peace as long as unfair exchange, foreign debt, and the transfer of resources from developing countries toward developed countries—just to mention a few issues—continue? Can we honestly attain justice as long as protectionism and discriminatory practices in international trade are sustained and rates of exchange deteriorate even more? Only effective cooperation, radically restructuring current international economic relations, would make the development and growth of poor nations possible.

The initiatives that have emerged by consensus from this organization are countless; yet, we are still ignored by the most powerful countries. The new international economic order; three international programs for development; four decades of UN efforts toward development; at least four special sessions of the General Assembly; several conferences on population, the environment, and human settlements; and even the Rio Conference are examples of instances when the peoples of the world have put their hopes in the United Nations. Yet, there are no tangible results.

The selfishness and lack of political will encountered by the poor of the earth, the children of colonialism; racism; plundering; and foreign meddling are disappointing.

On the contrary, neoliberal doctrines proclaiming exclusively the virtues of a market economy and private enterprise are gaining a foothold in UN aid programs. By advocating these alternatives alone, developing countries find the door closed to the true production of wealth. In this manner, inequalities are accentuated; true democracy, social development, and mankind's right to attain a productive and dignified productive life are attacked.

The countries of the South are only a statistic to the North. There are detailed studies revealing that there will be more of us, our health will worsen, and we will die in greater numbers. The quality of life of the generations that have been born and died while I say these words demands that these copious reports recording calamities in detail also have the faculty to free and heal. The knowledge alone that we are dying in the southern part of the planet will not prevent our unceasing burial. The surviving Third World has once more put its hopes in the drafting of an agenda for development and awaits with interest the report being prepared by the secretary general. Another disappointment is a luxury that a suffering mankind would never forgive us for.

Next year, the World Conference on Social Development will also give us a new opportunity to place mankind at

the center of UN efforts and to assign to this topic the priority it deserves within the organization's work.

Mr. President, today's world is bound to disappear gradually unless we manage to stop this trend through collective wisdom. The right to life, the most basic among human rights, is being time and again violated as a result of the growing deterioration of the ozone layer, of the contamination of the environment and of surface and underground waters, of the depletion of the earth, and of the daily increase in the legions of undernourished and underemployed people.

This barbaric situation that degrades mankind stems from the misnamed contemporary industrial civilization. In addition to such lacerating truths, mankind has to face other, no less complex, challenges.

The World Human Rights Conference that concluded recently reaffirmed that these rights are universal, interdependent, and indivisible. That forum has justly reiterated that this subject must be addressed objectively and impartially, but not selectively.

An attempt has been made to place the great majority of human rights violators among those countries of the impoverished South, while the overwhelming majority of accusers is among the affluent North.

Those claiming to be staunch defenders of certain individual rights are ostensibly including among them, with their usual brazenness, the violence that a growing number of neofascist and racist groups are unleashing in their own societies. Isn't perhaps the North, today more than ever, a source of discrimination against migrant workers, against the growing number of have-nots and national minorities? Who are the main recipients of the trade in human organs in the world? In what parts of the world have the aberrant practices of pornography and child prostitution, drug addiction, and trafficking in minors become commonplace? Are these, perhaps, the individual rights that are being so strongly defended?

Why isn't the right to eat, to work, to learn, to live healthily, not to be discriminated against by reason of sex or race—in sum, the basic right to be a human being—defended with the same intransigence?

We all recognize the UN's responsibility in promoting human rights and other basic rights in accordance with the UN Charter. There are organizations capable of discharging this responsibility as long as no attempt is made to assign them functions that are incompatible with their regular duties; as long as they are allowed to function objectively, without political conditions; and as long as their actions are based on cooperation rather than on imposition. This role cannot and must not be distorted. Thus, the idea of creating a high commissioner on human rights must be carefully examined, without undue haste that we might regret later.

In this context, those benefiting from the current international situation will make it appear as ideal. They seek to impose patterns of political and socioeconomic organization that are in their best interests and they have gone so far as being irrational in defending their concepts about the linkage among democracy, human rights, and the market economy—a new trilogy that disguises the sufferings of millions of people.

We must firmly reject every attempt to unilaterally decide these issues that are of vital interest to all peoples, thus preventing them from becoming new sources of conflict and stumbling blocks to international cooperation and the unifying role mankind expects the United Nations to perform today.

Mr. President, to allow the United Nations to achieve the objectives established in its charter and to enable it to contribute toward a guarantee of peace, cooperation, and development, we must urgently democratize it. Its democratization will enable us to correct the original and subsequent distortions that affected the organization and to make it an organization that truly seeks to reinforce cooperation among all peoples.

As we are already on the threshold of the 21st Century, it is no longer acceptable for the United Nations to continue to respond to the interests of a handful of powers. The United Nations was not and is not democratic. A right to veto, linked to the strengths of respective states, is unacceptable, especially when the UN Security Council may be used by some powers as an instrument of obedience, a risk more likely today than ever in light of the existing circumstances.

There is nothing more insecure in this world—and I am saying this in all honesty—than the UN Security Council. Its full democratization would demand, among other issues, that each member state submit to the democratic procedures of periodic elections, as is the case with its nonpermanent members. It would also demand the elimination of the privileged veto power and the establishment of a single category of members, which would be consistent with the principle of sovereign equality among all states, and that must once and for all become the cornerstone of the work of this organization.

We are aware of the obstacles that are today preventing us from reaching this objective, but we deem it possible and indispensable to move toward it. Nearly four times more peoples are represented here today than in 1945. Thus, we need a new order in the United Nations.

Cuba proposes that the number of Security Council members be increased, proportionate to the number of member states that existed in 1945 and that exist today, and to triple the number of its permanent members so that Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia may hold more than two positions, as Europe does today. It would suffice to know that more than 3.7 billion people of these continents; that is, two thirds of the world population, do not have this privilege.

It is also essential that the principle of an equitable geographical distribution prevail within the UN Security

Council, not only in relation to its permanent members, but in relation to its nonpermanent members as well. This move would constitute another step toward its democratization.

It is essential to change the operational mechanisms of the Security Council. The practice of the so-called unofficial consultations must be eliminated and its work must be carried out more openly, a fact that has been recognized by the secretary general in his latest on the organization's performance. It would not be permissible either for it to overstep its mandate or to meddle in issues over which it has no authority.

There are unpostponable measures that will guarantee greater participation by the UN General Assembly in issues pertaining to the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security. These measures will be instrumental in establishing the necessary balance between the General Assembly and the Security Council.

No one can be unaware of the fact that, in accordance with the UN Charter, this Assembly is the only UN organization that is truly universal. This fact alone brings a major responsibility upon it. The Security Council takes action in the name of all member states represented in this room and is subordinate to them. Thus, it is accountable to them and must submit substantive, analytical reports that will be instrumental not only in learning and systematically evaluating its activities, but also in imparting the necessary recommendations to it.

No one has any doubt about the widespread will to revitalize this organization. To achieve this, the most comprehensive and open consultations are required in which the decisions of all member states prevail above all.

Recent unconsulted initiatives aimed at reinventing the organization's priorities have provoked concern. There are proposals that even seem to perceive it as a supranational apparatus whose secretary would function as a universal government, which would take actions that are not based on appropriate legislative powers, but are assigned powers far removed from its legitimate nature.

We are especially advising of the dangers involved in such attempts which, if imposed, would provoke serious conflicts and would endanger the very existence of the organization. We must also announce some new ideas and mechanisms within the United Nations. Although the resolutions on the report known as A Program for Peace merited unanimous approval by this Assembly, its implementation may not be free from dangers that would violate the most sacred UN principles.

Nothing mentioned in those resolutions could justify violation of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of any state, or any act of interference in the affairs of these states.

The excessive increase in the number of peacekeeping operations and related procedures is also a source of growing concern. The proliferation of this type of operation does not mean that the United Nations is functioning today better than yesterday. Quite the contrary. In any case, it may be construed as a sign of the serious dangers that are threatening world peace and stability. The financial burden falling upon the member states for peacekeeping operations has reached untenable proportions. We must prevent this from increasing and becoming even more costly to the member states, especially to Third World countries.

There are, however, some rays of hope on our planet in this last decade of the century. One of these is the Ibero-American summits, the most recent of which was held in the Brazilian city of Salvador, Bahia State. I am citing this forum as a valid example of fraternal discussion in which, without impositions by anyone, agreements have been reached and decisions have been made on matters of common interest.

Also recently, we learned about the signing of the declaration which, as a preliminary measure, recognized Palestinian self-rule in part of the Israeli-occupied territories. We hope this step will be instrumental in restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate right to their own state in their national territory, and in making Israel withdraw once and for all from the remaining occupied Arab territories, Jerusalem included. This would be a major contribution to bringing a final solution to the Middle East conflict and to establishing a just, durable peace in that region of the world.

Only a few days ago, within the framework of the Special Committee on Apartheid, my delegation had the honor of listening to Nelson Mandela. We have been encouraged by his confidence in the future and we hope that the dialogue process underway in the country of South Africa will lead to the emergence of a united, democratic, and nonracist South Africa. We are willing to make our modest contribution to achieving this goal.

Mr. President, a genuine revolution has emerged victorious in my country. Since its early stages, it has suffered the hostility of its neighbor. Yet, disproving every prediction, our Revolution has maintained its humane, solidarity project. Despite the radical changes in the international situation, we have been able to continue with our project.

Cuba has joined the world economy and it is attracting foreign investment without relinquishing any of its principles. To continue to guarantee our people's development, we are implementing profound changes on the basis of maintaining both our independence and our achievements.

It is true that we are confronting serious problems as a result of an inhuman blockade. In spite of this, we continue to maintain a high standing in the areas of health, education, and social security, which are guaranteed for everyone amid our difficulties. The results we

have achieved in these areas have been recognized this year by the United Nations, namely by UNICEF.

An attempt is being made to crush our dream. In its previous session, this Assembly approved Resolution 4719, which focused on the need to put an end to the U.S. economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba. The international public welcomed this resolution. Solidarity with our country from every corner of the earth has increased remarkably since then. This solidarity has come from diverse sectors and creeds, even from large masses of the aggressor country, who have rejected the measures adopted by their own government.

There is growing support for a people who have been able to resist for more than three decades the unrelenting harassment of a great neighboring power and who continue to resist with praiseworthy courage despite unimaginable hardships.

Yet, openly defying the resolution of this honorable Assembly, and international claims, the blockade has been intensified in recent months through regulations designed to fully implement those cruel laws that were rejected in this forum less than a year ago. The extraterritorial nature of the blockade has accelerated and pressure is mounting.

Multiple efforts have been made to stop or jeopardize the ties that both public and private companies of third countries are maintaining with Cuba. They are seeking to make us surrender through starvation and disease, after failing to do so through either force or siren songs.

It must be a difficult task for the illustrious representatives of the great country to the North to continue today to uphold the bilateral embargo theory [la tesis del embargo bilateral] in the face of indisputable evidence proving that it is a blockade. We have submitted to this Assembly clear evidence that the objective is not only to maintain, but to increase the blockade, to economically strangle my country, to ignore the sovereignty of third countries, and to violate the right to free trade and navigation, to the detriment of basic principles of international law.

Besides, if we are talking about bilateral relations, two peoples are being blockaded: the peoples of Cuba and of the United States. U.S. citizens are being denied an economic prospect that could be beneficial to them. They are being prevented from having access to scientific achievements that already guarantee the prevention and cure of diseases such as meningitis, retinitis pigmentosa, hepatitis B, and vitiligo, among other Cuban scientific achievements. U.S. citizens are also denied the constitutional right to travel freely to any place in the world.

The blockade is even more inhumane for my people. We are prevented from acquiring basic medicines to keep our health. We are prevented from obtaining resources needed to meet our material and social needs. Our daily life and peace are threatened. My generation was born and grew up under the siege of the blockade. To live in a sovereign, unwavering country is considered a crime, for which two million children are threatened to pay with their lives. We hereby state before all the peoples in the world that there will be no forgiveness for those who are committing or supporting this genocide, because to watch a crime undisturbed is tantamount to committing it.

If against all logic, our rights were denied, if aggressive forces were to prevail over reason, Cubans would always have their unwavering conviction about victory. We love life and life means freedom, independence, and sovereignty. We demand respect for the path we have chosen. We do not intend to be models for anyone, but we will never yield to either imposition or force.

I know my words will be interpreted in different ways, but I have expressed the dictates of my beliefs as a free man. They may be accepted out of solidarity, courtesy, or commitment. I also know that many want us to win because it would be in their best interests.

To you, Mr. President, I want to convey my gratitude for having allowed me to express the feelings of an honorable people. [applause]

Government Hopes for Russian Stability

PA0410223193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2053 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Havana, 4 Oct (EFE)—The Cuban Government hopes for "stability and a prompt solution to the Russian crisis with the least possible victims," a Cuban Foreign Ministry spokesman told EFE today. The spokesman added that the Cuban authorities regret the victims of violence in recent days, "but every confrontation entails its risks." The spokesman reiterated that Cuba "is closely following the developments," but it supports a solution "within the framework proposed by the Russian Government."

Cuba and Russia, who up until the disintegration of the USSR maintained privileged relations, today continue to be linked by economic and cooperation agreements that are vital for the fragile economy of the island. Russia continues to be Cuba's main supplier of petroleum, as well as the main buyer of sugar, despite the fact that Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Fidel Castro keep their relations at a distance.

However, three days after Yeltsin decided to dissolve parliament—which led to the creation of a parallel power—the Cuban Government urged that the Russian president remain in his post "to guarantee stability and preserve the unity and integrity of the Russian Federation," according to a brief note published then by the official daily GRANMA.

Events 'Regrettable, Painful'

FL0510013893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] A curfew is now in force in Moscow from 2300 to 0500. By decree, the Russian Information Ministry has suspended communist and nationalist newspapers. The Russian Parliament, which was dissolved on 21 September by President Boris Yeltsin, was shelled today. Smoke was rising from it.

Early today, elite forces, supported by T72 tanks and other armored vehicles, stormed the parliament building. Official spokesmen have estimated the number of people killed inside the building as approximately 100. Other sources have claimed that the number of victims is five times higher than that.

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov were arrested this afternoon. According to official reports, they are alive and are being held in custody at a high security prison. In a nutshell, these are the facts.

If we changed names and geographical locations, these events could have taken place in a Third World country. It is obviously incumbent upon the Russian people to decide their future: to draw up a new constitution, or keep the current one; to engage in a fierce fight like the one they waged today; to support the use of force or to reject it.

There is no doubt, however, about one thing. What is happening in the former Soviet Union is regrettable, painful. Even before the outcome of this tragedy became known, the top leaders of the rich West had lent their unconditional support to the Russian president who, from a strictly legal standpoint, ignored the Constitution when he dissolved the parliament.

I repeat, this problem concerns the Russians alone. One cannot overlook, however, the fact that the rich Western countries judge similar events with a different set of values, different legal interpretations, and to speak bluntly, with a very different political approach.

Dominica

New Prime Minister Appointee Approved by Parliament

FL0510015093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2148 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Oct 4, CANA—Dominica's parliament on Monday paved the way for the appointment of a new head of state, just weeks before the island officially observes its 15th anniversary of political independence from Britain. The man parliament has approved for the job is speaker of the house, Crispin Sorhaindo.

Sorhaindo is at the moment acting president, with Sir Clarence reported to be out of state on private business.

Acting speaker Swantson Carbon told parliament that Sorhaindo had consented to a joint submission by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and opposition leader Edison James, nominating Sorhaindo as the candidate for the presidency.

The nomination is one which enjoys the full approval of the three-party parliament.

Sorhaindo, a former top official of the Caribbean Development Bank, is expected to take up office as president of the Commonwealth of Dominica, on October 25, barring no problems.

Haiti

Aristide Orders Amnesty for 'Political Breaches'

FL0510000193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] The Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination has issued a press release, the content of which is as follows:

The Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination advises the population that the president of the Republic, His Excellency Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has granted, within the scope of Article 147 of the 1987 Constitution, an amnesty for the political breaches committed during the period ranging from 29 September 1991 to 3 July 1993.

This order will be published in the Republic's official newspaper, LE MONITEUR.

[Dated] Port-au-Prince, 4 October 1993

Signed, Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination

Prime Minister Discusses 'Secret Agreement'

FL0410215093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Violence cannot prevent President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti on 30 October, stated Prime Minister Robert Malval on 2 October at the conclusion of a trip to the Dominican Republic, New York, and Washington. Rather, it will be a day of reconciliation and national jubilation, an historical day, not a day of misfortune, he asserted. Malval has issued a warning to the extremists, pointing out that their attitude is not advantageous to the country.

The prime minister was asked about his statements in the U.S. weekly, NEWSWEEK, regarding a secret agreement appended to the Governors Island Agreement, allegedly providing for the departure of high-ranking officers of the Haitian Army prior to President Aristide's

return. These statements had been denied by the chief of the Haitian Army and the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Malval stated that he had had in his hands a false document, a working hypothesis prepared by President Aristide's U.S. lawyers.

Malval said that his government had chosen 15 November for holding a national conference for the various political groups. The head of the Haitian Army General Raoul Cedras recently announced his intention to participate in a conference demanded by Chamber of Deputies President Antoine Joseph.

The head of the Haitian Government announced for next week the publication of the amnesty order provided for in Article 6 of the Governors Island Agreement and indicated that his stay in the Dominican Republic was fruitful. Our government received the total support of the Dominican authorities and private sector for frank collaboration between our two peoples, he stated.

Government Opposes Court of Cassation Opening

FL0410235693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Court opening is scheduled for Monday, 4 October, but no one knows the conditions under which this opening will take place. The government has announced that the traditional ceremony will not be held. The president of the Court of Cassation, however, discharged by the government, convened mayors and attorneys to this opening ceremony at 1400 GMT today.

Prime Minister Robert Malval reasserted on 2 October, upon his return from abroad, that the government would not reconsider the measure of pensioning off Judge Jonassaint. Robert Malval continues to believe that this decision is legal:

[Begin recording, in Creole] We could say that the president is not constitutional since he was not appointed by President Aristide, but we will not get into that. We respect the man, but we will pension him off. If we wanted a conciliation committee—that is, if we had returned with the president of the Court of Cassation appointed by President Aristide—they [not further identified] could say that we are coming to do something partial. We wish to be impartial. You cannot therefore expect me to work with a president of the Court of Cassation whom the constitutional president did not appoint.

We therefore made a compromise in our mind. We do not ask that they choose the person we want, but they cannot force us to choose the person they want. [end recording]

Jonassaint Presides Over Opening Ceremony

FL0510012593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The traditional ceremony for the opening of the courts was presided over by Attorney Jonassaint, president of the Court of Cassation, who has been pensioned off by the Malval government. The Army high command, the president of the Lower Chamber, senators, attorneys, and mayors attended the ceremony. Rothschild Francois reports live:

[Francois] Good afternoon. The opening of the courts has taken place this noon in the Justice Palace, a ceremony not recognized by the government of Robert Malval. It was presided over by Judge Emile Jonassaint who was accompanied by all the other judges of the Court of Cassation. The presence of the president of the Court of Appeals, the doyen of the Port-au-Prince Civil Court, and other judges were present at this ceremony. The absence of the government representative who was to play the role of public minister was noticed. He was replaced by another.

Other personalities who attended this ceremony were General Cedras, accompanied by members of the Haitian Armed Forces, president of the Chamber of Deputies Antoine Joseph, some senators of the Republic, some representatives of political parties, and representatives of lawyers' associations.

Not much could be recalled from Attorney Jonassaint's address, who was presiding over the ceremony. Nevertheless, he said he hoped that a real state of law could be instituted in Haiti. The president of the Port-au-Prince Bar, Attorney Gary Lissade, denounced in his address the illegal character of the government decree pensioning off Judge Emile Jonassaint. Attorney Gary Lissade of the Port-au-Prince Bar pleaded in favor of the principle of the separation of powers. [passage omitted].

It should be noted that while Attorney Gary Lissade was giving his speech, and during Judge Jonassaint's speech, demonstrators who were attending the ceremony chanted supportive slogans to Judge Jonassaint, stating that Jonassaint was there for ten years. Right now the demonstrators are still in front of the Justice Palace and are expressing support for Judge Jonassaint who presided over this ceremony marking the opening of the courts for the year 1993/1994. It should be recalled that this ceremony is not recognized by the Malval government.

Justice Commission Completes Work on Police Force Bill

FL0410172893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The work of the lower chamber's Justice Commission on the bill creating a new police force, submitted by the minister of justice of the Malval government, has reached an end. The assembly will have to rule on the revised text on 4 or 5 October.

On 28 September, Minister of Justice Francois Guy Malary appeared at the lower chamber to introduce the bill allowing the creation of a Haitian police force. [passage omitted]

According to Deputy Edmond Mirold, the Justice Commission analyzed the text and added some 10 articles in order to complete the bill proposed by the minister. The function and status of the police constituted the main point of the work of the commission because the office of the police was not clearly defined, pointed out Mirold, one of the members of the commission. Deputy Edmond Mirold adds that the Justice Commission of the lower chamber fulfilled its mission within 72 hours. The revised text will be presented to the assembly on 5 October, at the latest.

Let us point out that the finished work of the commission should be submitted to the presidents of the various political blocs in the lower chamber. Incidentally, the publication of the law on amnesty is expected this week. A Haitian press agency announced the publication of this law before Malval's departure [for the Dominican Republic]. It has expected since then. A reliable source told us that the law on amnesty will be published this week.

Army Denies Requesting Larger UN Assistance Team

FL0510002693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Communique issued by the Haitian Army General Staff; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The general command questions Prime Minister Malval's statement at Port-au-Prince International Airport on 2 October that the military requested an additional 200 men for the UN technical assistance team. This command makes a point of clarifying for the record that it was not the source of the first request nor of the increase noted in Security Council Resolution 867.

Armed Civilians Enter Supreme Court, Attack Advisers

FL0510002793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] An incident occurred today at the Supreme Audit and Administrative Litigation Court. Armed civilians attacked some of the institution's advisers who were about to begin their work. A group of men who succeeded in entering the institution's premises jostled the advisers and forced them to leave the building. Lionel Bernard was forced at gunpoint to lie on the floor. His life was reportedly saved by the intervention of a detachment of policemen.

Joint Commission With Dominican Republic Planned

FL0510000293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] A joint permanent commission will be formed between Haiti and the Dominican Republic within the next few weeks. Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval returned to the country on 2 October following a seven-day tour of the Dominican Republic and the United States.

According to Frantz Voltaire, head of the prime minister's cabinet, Malval did not address the UN General Assembly due to a misunderstanding about the place reserved for Haiti on the agenda of the 48th Assembly. So, Mr. Malval was not able to speak before the members of the UN General Assembly. He did, however, hold a tete-a-tete with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Let us point out that nothing has seeped out about the meeting with the UN secretary general, but members of the government of concord, who accompanied Malval, called the first step by the Haitian head of government toward restoration of solid relations between the two peoples of Hispaniola positive. The talks between the prime minister and the Dominican authorities were very fruitful, according to Haitian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic Guy Alexandre. [passage omitted]

St. Lucia

Minister Says Striking Banana Farmers 'Out of Control'

FL0410175693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1635 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, 4 Oct, CANA - St. Lucia's banana farmers will go on strike Tuesday. The decision to strike was announced at a rally in Cul de Sac, west of here, Sunday, reportedly attended by more than two thousand farmers. Speakers addressed the farmers in Kweyole, the French/African based language spoken by most St. Lucians.

Agriculture minister Ira d'Auvergne had to curtail an attempt to address the farmers, after he was booed and heckled. D'Auvergne seemed to be the only top-level government representative to attend the farmers rally, organised by a group calling itself the Banana Salvation Committee that has been mobilising local farmers.

Banana farmers here are demanding a minumum 30 cents (one East Caribbean dollar - 37 US cents) a pound for their fruit. The farmers also want the current board of the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association [SLBGA] removed. At a meeting the farmers had last week with Deputy Prime Minister George Mallet and the minister of agriculture, a five-point agreement was hammered out.

The agreement included government's promise to "urge" the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association to convene an extraordinary conference, to give growers an opportunity to elect association directors of their choice. The agreement also covered plans to "expedite" the work of a special committee that has been mandated to conduct a major review of the work of the SLBGA, to identify major areas for cutting costs.

Soon after the agreement was announced, Mallet accused banana growers of acting contrary to the spirit of the deal, in preparing for a strike. D'Auvergne, said on state-owned radio St. Lucia Monday morning that the farmers were "out of control". Prime Minister John Compton telephoned from Washington, where he was attending the annual IMF/World Bank meetings, to ask the farmers to reconsider their action.

He said farmers would be "cutting your nose to spite your face" when they strike. The leader of the Banana Salvation Committee, Abel Wilson, said Saturday that the banana farmers were proposing that the "C" grade category of bananas be removed, in order to ease hardships on farmers.

The SLBGA some two years ago introduced a "three-tiered" system of payment for bananas, comprising grades "A","B" and "C", with the "C" grade fetching the lowest price. Farmers have complained that with prices already low, and a compulsory CESS [expansion unknown] being deducted, banana production has become uneconomic.

Wilson told CANA farmers were proposing that the compulsory CESS be removed, and used to generate improved prices for farmers. Monday morning, a spokesman for the Banana Salvation Committee who asked not to be identified told CANA there were still hopes that the strike would be averted. The spokesman indicated that the committee had been "forced" into the strike announcement by irate farmers.

Trinidad and Tobago

Manning on Prospect of 'Harsh' Economic Adjustments

FL0410174293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1311 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 4 Oct, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Patrick Manning, on Sunday told supporters of his party the government did not "relish the task" of introducing harsh structural adjustment measures to improve the economy.

Manning, whose People's National Movement (PNM) will celebrate two years in power next December, also gave a detailed review of the government's achievement during a 90-minute presentation at the party's 32nd annual convention.

Stating that the government was not just running the country but was fundamentally restructuring the way in which it conducted business, the prime minister said Trinidad and Tobago had to move towards efficiency.

"If we do not take certain steps, we would be left behind, lumbering along, our engines sputtering and gasping, and we will have missed the opportunity to unleash the inner energy and creativity of our country, which is the only way to create wealth on a sustainable basis and to ensure the long-term viability of Trinidad and Tobago," said Manning.

"We know what we are about, but we also know that in doing what we must, we may bring some temporary (discomfort) to our very own and some may have grown bewildered, unable to accept the bitter medicine we have asked you to swallow.

"Let me assure you that we do not relish the task. There is no delight in hurting anyone in Trinidad and Tobago and it has never been that way for the people's national movement. We love you and god is our guide as we govern this country."

Speaking on the theme, "Modernising Trinidad and Tobago", the 47-year-old prime minister said the challenge to prepare the country for the 21st century required some fundamental shifts in orientation. The major aim was to make the economy open, while stressing and developing competitive advantages, he said.

He referred the audience of 5,000 to the recent dropping of the foreign exchange controls, the floating of the dollar, the dismantling of the negative list limiting or banning some imports and the removal of price controls on most goods which were important to attract foreign investment.

"...While it may not be readily apparent to many of you, this country is in fact witnessing some very exciting times. Never before have we had so much exploration activity taking place at one time by so many companies," said Manning as he listed the various investments in the energy sector made by international oil companies.

He said next year the country was likely to see a further explosion in heavy industrial activity.

On the run-down public utilities, the prime minister said that private sector investment would be sought for the production of water and the generation of electricity.

Government has already announced that it was setting up a new company with foreign interests for the generation of electricity to meet demands of the public until the year 2015 which was costing one billion dollars (one TT dollar - 17.5 US cents).

Workers at the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Company (TTEC) are currently engaged in industrial action to prevent any divestment of the state corporation.

"The present equipment at TTEC will at best meet demand for the next two to three years. If nothing is done now, load-shedding and blackouts will soon become the order of the day. The government is committed to staving off this potentially disastrous situation," said Manning.

Workers at the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) are also objecting to any divestment or privatisation of the authority although government has not yet given its decision on the future of the company.

Manning said that soon government would inform the population of the specific action which it proposed to take to rectify the "grave situation" at WASA.

He said WASA needed over a billion dollars to invest in new plant, equipment and pipelines, "otherwise we face the situation where we may wake up one day and there may be no water supply at all."

Solana Rejects NAFTA Ratification-Elections Link

PA0510035793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0305 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Mexico City, Federal District, 4 Oct (EFE)—Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana today rejected plans by U.S. officials to link U.S. ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] to elections in Mexico.

According to a U.S. source, Secretary of State Warren Christopher reportedly told Solana that debate on NAFTA in the United States could turn unpleasant should Mexico fail to make changes to improve its image in Congress. Among the changes Christopher reportedly urged Mexico to accept international observers in the 1994 presidential elections and to support Clinton's initiative to establish a UN human rights commissioner.

In a foreign secretariat communique, Solana reaffirmed that "an atmosphere of respect and cordiality prevailed during talks with Christopher last week in the United States." At the meeting "there were agreements on certain issues and differences on others and all this reflects the reality of the complex relationship that exists between the two countries," Solana added.

Several U.S. legislators have voiced doubts that Mexico will heed Christopher's recommendations and this "would make selling NAFTA a more difficult task."

Solana reaffirmed that the presence of foreign observers in Mexican elections is banned by Mexican electoral legislation, but he did support the presence of international journalists. "Elections are the sole and exclusive responsibility of Mexicans," Solana added.

Mexican electoral legislation was amended in August to include the legal figure of local observers in local and federal elections.

Cuban Ambassador Says Relations Remain on 'Good Level'

PA0410162393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0113 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Monterrey, Mexico, 3 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Jose Fernandez de Cossio, Cuba's ambassador to Mexico, affirmed here today that relations between the two countries continue on a good level with excellent communication, as evidenced by Mexican investments on the island.

Speaking to a Monterrey television station, the diplomat said: "The investments have strengthened the fundamental elements of our projects and have contributed to the nation's development. In addition, they have strengthened relations between our nations."

Fernandez de Cossio denied that "the Cuban Government prohibits the departure of its citizens," while he assured that the United States restricts the entry of these people into its territory. He stated: "Only Cubans who leave the island illegally are given automatic entry into the United States and their needs provided for," as opposed to those who attempt to do it through legal channels.

He reported that so far approximately 4,000 Cubans have obtained visas to enter the United States since both nations signed an agreement on the issue in 1987. The Cuban ambassador explained that the United States agreed to grant 20,000 visas annually to Cubans requesting entry to that nation, but in five years "they have barely granted 4,000."

El Salvador

Calderon Sol Denies Using State Funds for Campaign

PA0410164593 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, presidential candidate for the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party, denied on 2 October that his institute is using state funds for his campaign. Calderon Sol, however, refrained from answering questions by several parties that argue that Arena is taking advantage of the government campaign to recruit voters for the 1994 general elections.

[Begin Calderon recording] That is totally false. Each public institute has budget allocations for its election campaign. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, for instance, has to conduct a publicity campaign to supply voter identification cards to the country. I do not think we can afford to be without these types of campaigns. It has to be done. We must support it. All Salvadorans must participate and promote the issuance of voter identification cards. [end recording]

Arena is not using the state apparatus, according to Calderon Sol, because the party's statutes have been critical of its own government.

[Begin Calderon recording] If any party has distinguished itself by not using government workings, it is Arena. Arena is not a progovernment party of the past. If you will recall, the progovernment parties of the past used the state apparatus. We have criticized that practice and are not engaged in any action of that kind. [end recording].

Police Discover Arms Caches in San Miguel, Usulutan

PA0510000793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0050 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] National Civilian Police [PNC] based in Santa Elena have discovered two caches of war materiel. The first was found at the Quilanguera farm in San Miguel Department and the other in Jucuaran, Usulutan Department. In an exclusive report to Radio Cadena YSKL, Inspector Carlos Pozo of the PNC said area residents notified the PNC about the caches. The area was searched, and a considerable number of weapons were found.

[Begin Pozo recording] Santa Elena residents suspected the existence of weapons. They notified us and we conducted a careful investigation because certain explosives require careful handling. As I said, we found approximately 60 grenade launchers and rocket launchers, a few AK-47 and M-16 rifles, RPG-18 rocket launchers, 250 rounds of ammunition for 50-caliber machine guns, and ammunition for M-16's, AK-47's, and Czech rifles, as well as for 60-caliber machine guns. We also found explosives and flares. [end recording]

Inspector Pozo said he does not yet know the exact amount of war materiel that was uncovered or whether there are other caches in the area.

[Begin Pozo recording] As a result, we have kept a mobile PNC force here in Usulutan. This force has been traveling all over Usulutan, the coastal area, El Tigre hill, and part of San Miguel. Thanks to the understanding that exists between the police and the residents, we have been able to obtain information concerning this materiel, as well as information about armed groups. [end recording]

[Reporter] Do the weapons belong to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front?

[Pozo] I cannot say, because I have no information to indicate this.

[Reporter] Are you going to continue conducting searches or patrols to confirm whether more weapons are hidden in the area?

[Pozo] Our search for weapons is permanent because we know many weapons are still floating around. Some of these weapons, small quantities of them, were lost. They were not truly stored. [end recording]

Guatemala

De Leon Presents Peace Proposal to Diplomats, Media

PA0410200193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1839 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 Oct (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio today presented his government's official peace proposal to the diplomatic corps accredited in this country and to media directors.

The document includes mediation and an active role for the United Nations and the group of friendly countries made up of Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Canada, and the United States, according to preliminary reports.

The proposal provides for talks on socioeconomic issues to be held in Guatemala, while military issues will be discussed outside the country. The government also proposes that the rebel Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) reintegrate into civilian life. UN participation in the talks will allow that organization to verify the fulfillment of the agreements and oversee their implementation.

The president will present his proposal to the public tonight and will confirm that the document is the one his government will present to the United Nations on Tuesday [5 October].

With this new proposal the government is attempting to resume the talks with the guerrillas that were broken off last May and put an end to over 33 years of war.

Unveils Peace Plan

PA0510042493 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Address to the nation by Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Guatemalans: The message that I am addressing to you today is very important to me, not only because this is a historic moment but because that which I am about to say, comes from the bottom of my heart.

When I refer to peace I am thinking of my family, my children and also your families and children.

Analyzing what we have done to achieve peace in Guatemala, we must recognize the dedication of the National Reconciliation Commission, particularly its president, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno. To continue this task, we have seen the need to redefine, reorganize, and make feasible a national effort to build a peace that will not only be firm and lasting but changing. It is a peace that will promote positive changes for our reality and our conscience. This is the overall peace Guatemalans want. We need to build it and must build it.

This [20-second break in reception] the duties that correspond to them in the building of a more free and dignified society.

Let us not forget that peace go hand in hand with development. The Guatemalan people want and demand peace. We are fed up with armed confrontations and social injustice. We must understand that the lack of solutions for social problems is much more dramatic than the armed confrontation as such.

Consequently, we must not always work to put and end to war but to build peace, our peace. In response to this demand, we are proposing the national peace plan. The components of this plan, which we are presenting to the Guatemalan people and the international community, will lead us to building a firm, lasting, and changing peace in each home, community, and corner of our fatherland.

The plan seeks a firm peace, based on a profound reconciliation, through the dialogue so that Guatemalans can find unity in the diversity of our cultural, ethnic, religious, social, political, economic, and ecological values.

The plan seeks a lasting peace, a peace attained not only by ending the internal armed confrontation but by guaranteeing that the causes for hatred, rancor, and distrust that have divided us, will be overcome through negotiations, never again through violence.

The plan seeks a changing peace, a peace based on consensus and on the country's behavior. They will lead us to strengthening the government and society as a whole and giving a prompt and effective response to social demands, especially those of the towns worst affected by the internal armed conflict.

The first component is reconciliation. For this component, the plan believes that it is indispensable to establish and promote the Permanent Forum for Peace.

The forum will help expedite the dialogue and guarantee the participation of all the Guatemalan people in the solution of national problems. The reconciliation process will be carried out at the national, regional, department, municipal, and community levels. Thus, the consensus and agreements will express the people's true needs and orient the joint actions carried out by the people and government to fulfill those needs. This decentralization strategy will use all the mechanisms that allow the community to state its views, particularly the urban and rural development councils.

National problems will be discussed at the forum to reach conclusions that give priority to the perfection of our democracy; the strengthening of a legal state; the full exercise of individual rights; a respect for human rights; an overall self-sustained development with equity and justice; and the solution of problems caused by our cultural diversity. It is necessary to link this permanent forum with previous achievements within the peace process.

Consequently, contributions obtained within a national dialogue and at the meetings held by various groups of the Guatemalan society with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] must be taken into consideration. Likewise, while the URNG prepares to achieve a legal status, it may send the Permanent Forum for Peace—though the National Reconciliation Commission—its position and proposals on the topics for the forum.

The second component is a reply to social demands, which involve honest, efficient, and immediate actions by the government to strengthen the protection and defense of human rights; actions that reduce poverty levels and sponsor development in areas that have been most negatively affected by violence; and actions that manage to perfect our democratic system. The government will also sponsor and support responsible actions carried out in these sectors by all the groups that make up our society. We hope the international community's valuable support will strengthen the effort exerted by the people and the government. This will allow a prompt and efficient fulfillment of the people's needs and demands.

The third component is an end to the armed conflict. The process to end the armed conflict requires a resumption of the negotiation process with the URNG to achieve a definite cease-fire; the URNG's return to legality through an amnesty; the definition of necessary conditions for its admission into the country's political

life; and, as a consequence, its direct participation in the Permanent Forum for Peace. In addition, an international verification mechanism will be defined to allow the gathering, disarming, and demobilizing of URNG forces.

The URNG must necessarily put a stop to acts of terrorism, the destruction of infrastructure, and actions which damage our ecology, to favor this negotiation. Within this negotiation process, it is also necessary to:

1. Review the Oslo and Mexico accords.

2. Establish a timetable for the negotiation.

3. The negotiation should not be held contingent with the results achieved by the Permanent Forum for Peace. Quite the contrary, it should contribute to the forum's success through the achievement of accords.

4. The international verification of accords and pledges that result from the negotiation should be specific and opportune.

We invite the group of friendly countries—Colombia, Spain, the United States, Mexico, Norway, and Venezuela—to actively support the prompt termination of the internal military conflict and to support the UN secretary general's representative, who—in addition to being an observer—will have the authority to convoke meetings and act as an adviser and moderator.

In order to launch the peace plan, the government will adopt the following immediate measures:

1. It will reestablish the National Reconciliation Commission, that—within the spirit of the Esquipulas II Agreements—will convoke the organization of the Permanent Forum for Peace. The organization and direction of the forum is also under the responsibility of the sectors of society that will also be convoked.

2. It will issue a declaration of human rights that reaffirms before the national and international community the commitment to guarantee the same. Some of the specific commitments of the declaration are the following: To act firmly against impunity in the violation of human rights, without any distinctions of social and economic conditions, jurisdiction, or special privileges.

Likewise, modifications will be promoted to the criminal code so that those responsible for the cases of missing persons and illegal executions will be punished severely. In the future, the government will not encourage the organization nor will it provide arms to new voluntary civil defense committees throughout the country, as long as there are no reasons to do this.

The approval of the new military and social service law, that we have proposed to the Congress of the Republic, will be promoted. Therefore, recruitment for obligatory service will be just and not discriminatory. According to the Constitution, this service will be a duty and right of the citizens.

Necessary measures will be taken to protect and support persons and organizations who—according to the law—are working to promote and protect human rights. We urge the United Nations Organization, the OAS, and the member countries of such organizations to increase their presence and technical contributions in the actions that Guatemala and its institutions carry out for strengthening, training, and improving the mechanisms for the protection and defense of human rights.

3. It will request that the UN secretary general promote a meeting with the URNG to discuss and review the Oslo and Mexico Agreements, and to establish a timetable for the negotiations in order to put a prompt end to the internal armed conflict.

Guatemalans: To conclude, I reiterate my call for the conscientious, responsible, and active participation of each one of us in the economic, social, and political development of our country, which is the main challenge of peace.

In summary, the national plan allows us to build together a firm peace through reconciliation, a lasting peace based on negotiations and consensus, and a renovating peace that is based on an answer to the true demands of the population and that leads us to introduce positive changes in our quality of life and our consciences. Thank you for your attention and have a good night.

Government Successfully Negotiates Loan With IDB

PA0410145093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Oct 93 p 93

[Text] Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead Castillo announced that negotiations with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) successfully concluded on 30 September with an agreement for the Financial Sectorial to grant Guatemala a $132 million loan.

During a telephone interview from Washington, Aitkenhead told PRENSA LIBRE that the negotiations were important because the country had been trying to obtain the loan for over two years and the successful culmination came in record time compared to past loan negotiations.

The finance minister said Guatemala will receive the $132 million in three allotments: the first, $62 million; the second, $35 million; and the third, $35 million.

Aitkenhead said the loan will be used for the financial modernization program recently approved by the Monetary Board, which must be completed within 15 months following receipt of the first disbursement.

The finance minister says now that the negotiations are over, the IDB board must approve the loan in November so Guatemala can receive the first $62 million soon. Congress must also approve the loan, so it is urgent that it resume its activities, he said.

Carolina Roca, executive secretary of the economic cabinet, also referred to the emergency financial aid the U.S. Government has given Guatemala. Roca said that because the $10 million in cooperation aid from the United States is a donation, the money will be promptly disbursed because it need not be authorized by Congress and can therefore be sent directly to the national treasury, where it will contribute to Guatemala's payments balance. Roca also said the donation will be effective within the course of the year and that the only remaining step is to reach an agreement with the Agency for International Development (AID) so when the decision is made the money can be sent to the government. Roca said the donation is an example of the Clinton administration's prompt support for Guatemala.

Carolina Roca also announced that as a result of talks with friendly countries, "a considerable amount" of aid is expected from Japan, although she did not specify the amount or date of disbursement.

Acting Bank of Guatemala President Maria Antonieta Bonilla announced yesterday that negotiations between Guatemala and the World Bank were also successful. The only thing pending is a discussion with the IMF regarding programs for the final quarter of 1993 and the next two years.

As a result of the agreements, the country expects to receive $50 million from the IDB and $24 million from the World Bank in the next three months and approximately $200 million from both organizations in 1994.

The negotiating commission formed by Finance Minister Richard Aitkenhead, Bank of Guatemala President Willy Zapata, and other intermediaries traveled to Washington last week to attend the IMF's and World Bank's annual meetings to discuss their programs.

The Central Bank acting president said "the negotiations have gone considerably well for Guatemala," and the only thing left is to conclude negotiations with the IDB concerning the financial modernization program approved by the Monetary Board a week and a half ago. She added that at the conclusion of these negotiations the IDB will present Guatemala's case to its board of directors.

The second round of important negotiations is with the World Bank, with which the country is conducting the Economic Modernization Program (PME) signed in November 1992.

The first payment of $50 million for this program was received in December 1992, but the other two payments that were programmed for this year were delayed for several reasons, including the events in May and the country's failure to fulfill stabilization goals. Now that loan is being renegotiated so activities included in the PME can be reprogrammed and reconciled with certain activities that will be part of the IDB program.

Bonilla pointed out that Guatemala expects to receive between $100 million and $150 million from the IDB and $48 million from the World Bank in 1994 to complete the payments that were contemplated for 1993, but not fulfilled. The World Bank has already agreed to restructure the loan.

Bonilla also noted that the IMF has agreed to visit the country during the second half of October to examine the economic situation and also to step up negotiations with Guatemala so specific solutions can be reached by November concerning the economic stabilization program.

Bonilla concluded: "We will continue our efforts to maintain the country's macroeconomic balance to avoid a considerable increase of inflation, not only to avoid punishing the Guatemalan people's economy but to have access to foreign financial resources for social investment projects."

Honduras

Callejas on 'Serious Implications' of U.S. OIC Withdrawal

PA0410173093 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Report by Julio Armando Valdes from "The Morning Paper" newscast]

[Text] Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas has reiterated that the central government can only grant a 20-percent salary increase to doctors employed by government hospitals. He said that yielding to demands by the Honduran Medical College would create a void in the budget with serious implications for the next administration.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] We have made some realistic proposals. I have to deal in realistic economic terms. My term is about to end, and I believe it would be unfair if I left unbudgeted economic obligations for the new government. That is why we told the Honduran Medical College that this government is able to offer up to a 20-percent increase and easily incorporate it into our accounts with current economic resources. I cannot make budget commitments beyond 1994 for the amounts requested.

Here we have very important conceptual differences: We are ending a government term and it is an election year, thus it would be perceived as a government weakness to pledge something that is beyond the country's capacity. I could act with demagoguery and reach an agreement with the medical sector or any other sector, but that would have very serious fiscal implications for 1994.

I ask the Honduran Medical College to make their request in two stages; that is, to accept my government's

proposal, which is approximately 20 percent, and to leave the rest to negotiate after the new president takes office on 27 January 1994.

I believe that under Honduras' current circumstances, having to face the destruction by tropical storm Gert, it is important that we all have the resolve to solve problems positively.

[Valdes] Aside from the health minister, who else from the state secretariats could join the negotiations today?

[Callejas] We want to sit down and continue negotiating. The finance minister has the authority to decide as necessary. We sincerely hope that we can solve the doctors' requests and that this does not become an unending strike, because the only people who suffer are the Hondurans.

[Valdes] Could the U.S. withdrawal from the International Coffee Organization affect our country?

[Callejas] This is very serious. This is not a new position that developed countries have taken; that is, trying to impose their will at the expense of the poorer countries. We saw this with Europe and the bananas, and we see it now in the case of coffee and the United States. Hegemonic power is hurting all of us. This is a truly complex situation, which we hope can be overcome based on the solidarity of the Latin American peoples and coffee producers.

[Valdes] The United States continues to affect the Central American area with the coffee issue after the problems with the EC?

[Callejas] In certain ways the United States upholds positions of solidarity with us, while in others they can be very contradictory. In this case the stance of the U.S. commercial sector is not in harmony with our countries' realities. The effect of trying to monopolize and handle coffee by U.S. importers, backed by their government, has very serious implications for our countries. [end recording]

Commander Denies Army Backed Coup Bid in Guatemala

PA0510041093 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Oct 93 p 4A

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Armed Forces Commander in Chief Luis Alonso Discua on 2 October termed groundless reports that claim Honduran soldiers supported actions promoted by ousted Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias against the Guatemalan Constitution.

He said: "I was surprised by those reports, because they are groundless. It seems to me that the Senator from Massachusetts is misinformed. No Armed Forces officer would attempt meddling. Why would they do such a thing?"

Discua stressed: "If at any time members of the Armed Forces have meddled in the domestic affairs of another state, it was in connection with problems involving the 'contras' and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, in which the United States had specific objectives."

Ready To Cooperate

In the event that assistance from Armed Forces doctors and nurses at public hospitals becomes necessary because of the doctors strike, the Armed Forces are ready to help, he said.

All we need is an order from the president of the Republic to act, Discua said. He urged doctors to show good faith in finding a solution to the problem concerning their demands for wage increases.

"It is very difficult to meet their demands, although I believe they are just. I appeal to the doctors' conscience and good sense to end the conflict," Discua said.

Nicaragua

Humberto Ortega Addresses Military Audience

PA0510013893 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1430 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Speech by General Humberto Ortega, EPS commander in chief, on the occasion of establishing the Nicaraguan Army Rapid Deployment Group at the Omar Torrijos Tank Unit Complex in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Alfredo Mendieta, government minister; Major General Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the general staff of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]; Brigade Commander Fernando Caldera, chief of the National Police; other guests to this memorable ceremony, special guests, Messrs. military attaches of the various countries, Messrs. producers of northern Nicaragua and other regions of the country, members of the National Police, comrade officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and EPS civilian employees:

On 4 October 1912 General Benjamin Zeledon fell in combat as commander of the allied army that was defending national independence, sovereignty, and identity against the U.S. armed intervention and servile sectors of Nicaragua that supported U.S. geopolitical interests.

In homage to this national hero, we named after him the Rapid Deployment Group [Agrupacion de Despliegue Rapido] that we are establishing today. Also in homage to Gen. Benjamin Zeledon and Gen. Ramon Raudales, a veteran of the struggle of Augusto Cesar Sandino who died an old man on 4 October 1958 in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship, our armed institution today will present EPS decorations.

Some 5,752 soldiers are bearing medals and badges on their chests with honor; 123 soldiers were decorated with the Camilo Ortega Medal in gold, silver, or iron; 260 soldiers with the Hilario Sanchez Medal; (?117) soldiers with the Fifth Anniversary Medal; 187 soldiers with the 10th Anniversary Medal; 833 soldiers with the Fulfilled Duty Citation; 2,640 soldiers with the Fifth Anniversary Fulfilled Service Citation; and 1,592 soldiers with the 10th Anniversary Fulfilled Service Citation.

To all of them I send the warm and sincere recognition of the General Command and the entire heroic Army for the lofty merits they achieved. The Benjamin Zeledon Tactical Combat Group was organized because of the need to have a Rapid Deployment Unit [Unidad de Respuesta Rapida] to guarantee the implementation of missions throughout national territory while ensuring the maximum [word indistinct] of forces and means against armed situations led by rebel and vandalistic groups, and thus, to contribute to consolidating the pacification process and this [word indistinct].

It is led by general staff commanders and officers and made up of High Command reserve units like the Light Infantry Brigade, Special Forces Command, Command Regiment, Radio Electronic Unit, Logistics Command, Military Medical Corps, and the Air Force. This group is organized, equipped, and prepared for a high degree of combat readiness and it is the expression of the institutional and professional efforts exerted to support an overall peace process in the country.

The general balance of the peace process carried out throughout 1993, up to 2 October, yields the following results:

Casualties: There have been a total of 90 EPS casualties; 34 of these were deaths. There has been a total of 593 casualties inflicted on armed groups; 205 of these were deaths. There has been a total of 203 civilian casualties resulting from the violence that still prevails in the countryside; 145 of these were deaths.

Also, within the peace process, we have sustained casualties resulting from the removal of land mines. The EPS has destroyed 2,351 assorted land mines within this period. Priority has been given to productive regions located in northern Nicaragua and the central part of the country. One thousand seventy- nine mines have been destroyed in Region 1; 564 mines have been destroyed in Region 5; and 718 mines have been destroyed in Region 6—which includes Matagalpa and Jinotega. From the dangerous task of removing land mines, the EPS reports one death and four injured men.

Regarding the irregular groups, today we report the following:

Between 22 December 1992 and 30 September 1993, 1,528 irregular fighters were disarmed, including recompas and recontras. The EPS' constant operational readiness was essential for the disarmament process. The same goes for the amnesty granted so the irregular fighters would definitely disarm themselves.

This step represents a great achievement for the process to fully attain peace in the countryside because, from now on, it will allow the strict enforcement of the law; and no impunity will be allowed in the national territory.

In addressing the farmers here we want to say there are no more enclaves for irregular groups something that is foremost a great relief to farmers and residents of Nicaragua's northern region. There are approximately 500 irregulars who until today, 4 October, have remained outside the law and have not accepted amnesty, including those well-known like El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], Nortiel [Roberto Garcia Castro], Perro [not further identified], and others.

In addition, approximately 500 irregulars clustered in tens of small groups are engaging in acts of violence, including holdups and cattle rustling. They are delinquents operating in different parts of Jinotega, Central Zelaya, Matagalpa, Chontales, and Boaco Departments. The major achievements attained with regard to these rearmed groups make it necessary to achieve national stability, which is vital to be able to pacify completely the country and move the economy in general and agricultural and livestock production in particular. It is indispensable to make a pact against poverty to stem the accelerated process of bankruptcy in Nicaragua.

It is urgent to reach agreements among the different major protagonists for the country's life. Those agreements will only be viable if each major protagonist admits how real and necessary everyone is. To try to distort the specific weight of every segment to weaken it or exclude it does not lead to stability. Each segment must set its sights ahead. Each segment must be accepted as it is within the framework of the Constitution and the law, in a great union of partners to save Nicaragua from ruin and chaos. Whether one likes it or not, the economic, material, political, and institutional reality in Nicaragua is that we must agree to improve that situation, to tap the potential of that great economic energy that is being accumulated by that reality, to promote the initiative of private enterprise and cooperatives so they can move the economy and provide jobs, and to ensure true social justice that will only be possible when Nicaragua generates wealth to overcome the poverty that generates great suffering and anguish.

To boost national stability, the EPS has become consolidated as the nation's military institution [25-second break in reception].

Having a constitutional army means having a permanent army for the Nicaraguan state, both in the present and the future. As such, it will remain unaffected by government programs created by various ruling political parties, which must succeed one another under the modern constitutional democratic and institutional system—a system we must all help to construct in Nicaragua. [applause]

To try and alter the EPS' basic organization at this time, by whatever means, or to deny its existence, is to ignore reality and seriously undermine national stability. We must, instead, strengthen the armed institution and the National Police through a respectable budget and legislation that will improve them and provide stability and security. It is absolutely false to say the $36 million in the Army's limited budget will resolve Nicaragua's socioeconomic crisis. It will require at least $1 billion to offer even short-term solutions for Nicaragua's economic frustration. This frustration is the result of the many problems we have endured over the past century.

Officers, troops, and civilian personnel: Let us continue to work for our Army. Let us strengthen it professionally and institutionally. Then it will be able to serve Nicaragua better day by day, by ensuring peace, by strengthening law and order, and by protecting the private property of the large, medium-sized, and small, of the rich and the poor. It will be an army that will defend the Constitution, sovereignty and national dignity; an army that will defend self determination, freedom, and human rights; an army that will support the conservation of our forests and natural resources. It will be an army to fight drug trafficking and piracy in our waters; an army that will come to the aid of the victims of natural disasters. It will be a constitutional army that will never be used to repress the people. It will never drag the peasants off and burn down their homes, as did the Somozist National Guard which served as a tool of domination for a selfish and exploiting minority. It will be an army that will do its utmost to ensure law and order to enable the country to thrive and function.

For the sake of national stability, the Army today is issuing a sincere appeal to all the important groups in the country, urging them to resolve Nicaragua's economic and social crisis. Therefore, together we will defeat the phenomenon of violence. This violence prompts instability, and its roots must be eliminated instead of using the public forces in a weakening vicious circle to merely counter actions that violate the law and disrupt order and social tranquillity.

We are issuing an appeal to all the people, urging them to support the Army and National Police in their task of guaranteeing order and safety. All groups must give their humanitarian and Christian support to those who are now suffering most because of the country's crisis; those who have lost their homes because of natural disasters; and those who are suffering harassment at the hands of criminal bands. To support these people is to help counter the violence that threatens us all.

A special appeal is being issued to the whole nation, urging it to support the EPS' actions to enforce the law against those who failed to accept an amnesty and continue to generate violence against producers and people who live in the countryside. The EPS will fully support producers in the countryside to end kidnappings, blackmail, and robberies. We will support those who generate jobs and riches with their production in an effort to truly defeat, without being wholly dependent on other countries, the economic and social crisis that overwhelms Nicaragua.

In addition to the sacrifice of the EPS, which sheds its blood and sweat defending the producers, we must urgently pay attention to both large and small producers, and we must meet their demands on various economic, financial, and credit issues. Only an overall government, military, police, political, business, juridical, and legal effort will truly allow us to achieve peace in the countryside within a short time, thereby improving our production and foreign investments in the industrial sector.

Brother officers, rank-and-file, civilian workers, and Army commanders: To conclude on this memorable day, I wish to reassert that our EPS will continue along the historical, patriotic, nationalist, and democratic path that our national hero General Benjamin Perez Zeledon accorded us with dignity, decency, and courage via his exemplary sacrifice in El Coyotepe and La Barranca. Thank you.

Argentina

Menem News Conference on Elections

PY0410172493 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 0022 GMT 4 Oct 93

[News conference with President Carlos Menem at Government House Conference Room—live]

[Excerpts] [Menem] Good afternoon. I want to thank the massive presence of Argentine journalists and some foreign journalists, on the occasion of the elections held in Argentina today, which I would say is a historic day, to discuss the subjects you may deem of interest.

First, I want to reiterate and quote the great Argentine President Bartolome Mitre who said that victory does not give us any rights. I agree with him, victory gives us no rights, but I would add that victory gives us greater responsibilities, greater duties, and victory compels us to be even more humble and to continue working with the entire people of our country, regardless of our political disagreements, for our country, for our Argentine Republic.

I want to inform you that the national projections show that we are more than 13 percent ahead of our main opposition party. Our triumph has been consolidated in the Federal Capital, which is an historical event. According to a UN vote projection program we are more than 23 percent ahead of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] in Buenos Aires Province, and the official observers for Buenos Aires Province tell me this gap is increasing. Moreover, the Justicialist Party [PJ] has won in four municipalities that were being disputed in these elections. [applause]

Four new mayors have been elected by the people in Florencio Varela, General Belgrano, Carue, and Benito Juarez districts. We have historically lost in one of these four districts but the Justicialist Party won today. Another important thing is that, according to the projections, we won nine more deputies today, to be added to the total we had in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday. [applause] This is what the projections reveal now, but nearer midnight we will probably see a difference, only a slight difference, either in favor or against this data.

Another important point is that there were no incidents, no complaints. In other words, everything developed normally, there was no fraud and, well, the difference was significant enough to continue talking about the subject.

In Cordoba Province, where we were almost 11 percent behind, the latest reports show the difference has dropped to 6 percent and continues to drop. I think all this is very important for democracy, for freedom, and for Argentina's image abroad. Stories about a lack of legal guarantees and other issues, which some have tried to use to spoil this day, 3 October, have ended. With the respect that everyone deserves, I reiterate what I said before the elections: The Argentine people are among the most politicized people, among the most intellectual people, and this is why I have said that the Argentine people do not, and will never, live on illusions. We live according to the facts, the real situations, and the achievements. [applause]

I want to once again thank you for coming and place myself at the journalists' disposal. I ask you to identify the media to which you belong. I also ask you to be as brief as possible because we continue to receive new results of the vote count.

Lets see who can act as moderator? How about you [Raul] Burzaco [Media Secretary]?

[Claudio Perez, Television Channel 11] My questions is whether you interpret these results as a sign of support for your administration? There has been a lot of talk about your plan to reform the Constitution that is now in Congress. Do you think these results will strengthen this draft bill?

[Menem] I believe that the model we launched in 1989 has now received much more support than it received in 1991. After we have been in office for four years, four difficult years, due to the transformation process we have been furthering in the Argentine Republic, the results are for everyone to see. I believe these elections show that there is generalized support for the project we have been pushing foward. As for constitutional reform, I want to point out that we have followed the discourse of our adversaries. Everyone knows that our adversary, the UCR, proposed the reform. We supported this initiative and, after 1989, continued to work on it. Moreover, we cannot forget what we did in the past, we cannot erase what we have written, at least the PJ cannot. I want to once again remind some governors of the UCR and other political parties that they have reformed their constitutions in Cordoba Province, for example, and in other Argentine provinces.

What is more, the 1953 Constitution, which undoubtedly was a great constitution, was designed for a country divided into nine provinces. In view of undeniable developments, regardless of our individual opinions, I believe a reform of the Constitution is necessary now that we have 24 provinces, each with its own constitution. I am not going to talk about the presidential reelection, because this must be decided by the Argentine people. [applause]

[Pizarro, Telefe] Do you believe the government's success lies in its zero percent inflation, that at the time of voting the citizenry did not take into account developments like the recent incidents involving the Supreme Court of Justice?

[Menem] Look, that is exclusively the responsibility of the judicial branch, not the political branch. Let us not mistake things. The Supreme Court of Justice case must be solved by the court itself through the mechanisms established by current laws. This has by no means

affected these elections because under that criteria and according to all that has been published during the past two years, since 1991, or even before, we should have lost the elections. Some issues have obviously been used for electoral purposes. I think it will be proven that the case of the Supreme Court of Justice, once the investigations are concluded, was a maneuver that materialized just two days before the elections. The people interpreted it this way, they know perfectly well who is behind this maneuver, and this is why they continued to support the government as we witnessed today.

[Pizarro] Did they vote with their pockets?

[Menem] No, they voted with their hearts, with Argentina in mind.

[Gustavo Silvestre, Television Channel 13] From the political viewpoint, how do you interpret the strength gained by new opposition forces like the Broad Front of the Federal Capital [Frente Grande Capital Federal], Modin [Movement for Independence and Dignity], and the recovery of the UCR in some districts where it lost during the last elections.

[Menem] My friend, let us not forget that the polls showed the UCR as the favorite in the most important district of the country, that is, the Federal Capital, but the PJ won here. [applause] Let us bear that in mind. Let us be a bit more honest in this type of questions, which I think are very good, but let us not forget that the PJ won in the most important district of the country, that is, the Federal Capital with approximately 3 million electors or a few more.

Yes, it is true we lost in Santiago del Estero. But if we add up the votes obtained by the two Justicialist tickets we would find we almost won. We are winning in Chubut, for example, where we lost in 1991. We are winning in other districts where we lost in the past. In San Juan, for example, we are doing very well. In San Juan, the PJ secured three seats in the Chamber of Deputies because Dr. Escobar, the dismissed governor, obtained 44 percent of the votes, followed by the Justicialist ticket that obtained 22-24 percent of the votes. The other votes went to the Bloc Party and the UCR.

In Tierra del Fuego we also won with a wide margin. The people of Tierra del Fuego deserve applause. [applause] The Broad Front and Modin obtained excellent results in these elections but they were excellent partial results. In the Federal Capital, Buenos Aires, and some other parts of the country neither of the two parties, which are undoubtedly important parties, have obtained a significant result. I believe the Broad Front has won the support of some sectors of the UCR. At least this is what I heard (Dr. Delich) say. Many leftist sectors, which had no chance within their own parties, have joined the Broad Front. Other political sectors have joined Modin, especially in Buenos Aires Province.

[Guillermo Canepa, Argentina Television Color] There was a lot of talk about what would happen on 4 October, that is, after the elections. The PJ said people voted with their minds set on the future, while the UCR said the people cast a vote of protest against the economic measures implemented so far. What will happen, will there be changes, or will everything remain as it is?

[Menem] Tomorrow, at 0900, as I do every day, no, before then, at 0800, as I do every day, I will be here at Government House, working with the same humility, but with the same strength, for the Argentine Republic. There won't be any change. [applause]

[Cristina Perez, Television Channel 9] Based on these results, will there be a plebiscite?

[Menem] That will be decided by the party, and by government officials who are working on this issue. I am going to remain on the sidelines."

[Perez interrupting] ...your opinion on the subject.

[Menem] I belong to the party, but as I am probably involved in this reform process, I will not judge it until a decision in this regard is made. [passage omitted]

[(Hugo Levede), LU2 Bahia Blanca Radio] At an international level and considering that Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo is here, what impact do you think these elections will have on the future, financially?

[Menem] I think this victory will have favorable repercussions internationally, especially in the economic and financial world, because it reasserts the path that has yielded the Argentine Republic such positive results economically during the past four years, and obviously, in the social field. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Television Channel 2 journalist] Mr. President, you have said want to be given the chance of being reelected in 1992. I know you do not want to talk about the reelection but have these results nourished your desire to be reelected?

[Menem] I would be a hypocrite if I told you that it hasn't. It is obvious that it has. Hypocrisy is not my strongest point. [applause] [passage omitted]

Latest Numbers on 3 October Elections Reported

PY0410212593

[Editorial Report] Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 4 October carries as part of its regular newscast several reports on the 3 October legislative election returns and states that the Justicialist Party, PJ, victory indicates that the Constitution will be reformed and President Carlos Menem reelected. The reports indicate that so far the PJ has received 5,693,779 votes, 43.08 percent of the votes nationwide, and the Radical Civic Union, UCR, has received 4,015,688 votes, 30.39 percent. The Democratic Centrist Union has received 2.89 percent; the Movement for Independence and Dignity, 5.81 percent;

the Great Front, 3.73 percent; the district parties, 8.58 percent; and the smallest parties, 5.52 percent.

Later it is reported that in the federal capital governor's race, Antonio Erman Gonzalez received 33.1 percent of the votes and his UCR opponent, Marta Mercader, 29.5 percent. In Buenos Aires Province, PJ candidate Alberto Pierri received 48 percent of the votes and UCR candidate Federico Storani 25.8 percent. It is also reported that the UCR has won in Rio Negro, Catamarca, and Santiago del Estero and that in Cordoba, where it received 44 percent of the votes, the PJ received only 36.5 percent, although it won in Santa Fe, Santa Cruz, Tierra del Fuego, La Pampa, Mendoza, Entre Rios, Misiones, Formosa, Tucuman, Jujuy, La Rioja, Salta, Chubut, Chaco, and San Luis. The report adds that in San Juan, however, Front for Hope candidate Jorge Escobar received the largest number of votes.

The last report concludes by stating that the PJ has been winning nationwide so far and it already has elected 127 deputies.

Distribution of Seats in House of Deputies Outlined

PY0410224193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1927 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] The following is a comparative table on what different party blocs in the Chamber of Deputies risked in yesterday's election, the seats they won, and the Chamber of Deputies' configuration as of December:

	Present Seats	Leaving Congress	New Arrivals	Difference	Total
1. PJ	117	57	64	+ 7	124
2. UCR	84	42	42	—	84
3. Provincial	17	8	8	—	17
4. UCeDe	10	5	1	- 4	6
5. Modin	3	—	4	+ 4	7
6. Large Front	1	1	3	+ 2	3
7. Socialist U.	3	—	2	+ 2	5
8. PDP	2	2	1	- 1	1
9. Intransigent	3	3	1	- 2	1
10. FR	2	2	1	- 1	1
11. Others	12	7	—	- 7	5

1. PJ	Justicialist Party
2. UCR	Radical Civic Union
3. Provincial	Provincial Parties
4. UCeDe	Democratic Centrist Union
5. Modin	Movement for Independence and Dignity
6. Large Front	Large Front
7. Socialist U.	Socialist Union
8. PDP	Popular Democracy Party
9. Intransigent	Intransigent Party
10. FR	[expansion unknown]

Editorial Comments on Clinton UN Speech

PY0510001893 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Oct 93 p 22

[Editorial: "World Order, Peace, and Disarmament"]

[Text] In his first speech to the UN General Assembly, U.S. President Bill Clinton ignored the "new world order" announced by his predecessor, George Bush. Clinton proposed extending the current international nuclear nonproliferation treaties through a ban on the recovery of plutonium and the production of enriched uranium for military purposes.

While many expectations have been frustrated, it is obvious that the U.S. President's moderation is based not only on an isolationist trend and strong concern for domestic policy, as some people have claimed, but also on a conception that is more realistic than the previous one. Some of the contents of Bush's proposal, which was made known after the collapse of the former USSR in 1991, were too categorical and intrusive.

The world is moving along paths that are harder to predict or control by the first superpower or by a hypothetical, renewed United Nations that can represent mankind's unified will. Wealth and technological capacity concentrate in a traditional group of countries, and while the majority of nations stand at various levels of underdevelopment and even retrogression, a group of nations is determinedly making progress toward full industrialization. Many matters still remain to be clarified and many problems to be resolved before the possibilities for cooperation and peaceful coexistence, which were opened by the disappearance of the two world blocs, produce a harmonious order.

Old and new conflicts coexist with the gigantic steps forward that are being taken in the resolution of chronic

internal and external confrontations in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa. The humanitarian intervention in Somalia became a hunt for seditious people, while the ghost of starvation has not yet been wiped off the horizon, massacres continue in the former Yugoslavia, and the future of Bosnia remains a problem.

There is a growing trend for the preservation of traditions and the radical defense of ethnic values all over the world, while the wild migration of men and women escaping from extreme misery has overwhelmed border controls in countries with dynamic economies.

In such a context, it would have been more exaggerated to formulate an all-encompassing strategy, like the one proposed by Bush, instead of choosing limited objectives. Clinton did not clarify many unknowns, but he was unable to do it anyway.

A stronger emphasis might have been necessary on the economic topics that are causing international division. However, no new and firm prospects for cooperation for overcoming the current barriers are being reflected by the statements of those who hold power, as would have been necessary. Instead, the general statements by international organizations devote much rhetoric to such statements.

This is also the appropriate framework for consideration of the proposal to improve the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which began in 1968 and was signed by more than 150 countries, and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which 23 countries have already joined, along with a protocol on the production of those substances and the broadening of the scope of agreements on the nonproduction of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

The initiative by Clinton should be welcomed because the possibility for the possession of nuclear weapons to expand under covert conditions to other countries or groups is by all means worrisome and dangerous. There is a list of possible nuclear countries that have not specified their conditions on the subject. South Africa recently did it, voicing its determination to do away with technology that can be used for production of nuclear weapons. However, India, Israel, Pakistan, Iran, Libya, and Iraq are surrounded by clouds of suspicion. Meanwhile, the DPRK has elicited reactions and warnings from the ROK and the United States, which has no doubts about the DPRK's nuclear power.

There is nothing else to discuss about the need to push the possibilities of nuclear destruction farther away, which played a central role in the cold war. Under the current circumstances, proliferation can be even more fearful and uncontrollable.

At the same time, however, it should be noted that the possession of nuclear technology and nuclear production capacity are accompanied, in general terms, by development levels that cannot be the privilege of just a few. Some countries are trying to enter the small club of nuclear countries through the back door, while others need, for their own development, nuclear facilities for producing energy or for medical use. Is it possible to build an unfairly limiting barrier?

To expand and consolidate disarmament among the major owners of arsenals, discouraging illegal or covert dissemination, are appropriate, praiseworthy initiatives. At the same time, it is necessary to do something about the unending and growing traffic of conventional weapons as part of an effort that, if it is to become a sound foundation for world peace, should be coupled with work on another hot issue: the unequal distribution of production and goods.

Moving forward along the path of peace and harmonious coexistence among all nations of the world also entails moving along the path of cooperation and common, shared progress, with a new impulse and with the appropriate approach. As we said, those who hold power have not yet undertaken to meet this challenge in a realistic, appropriate fashion.

Brazil

Government Note Supports Yeltsin, Russian People

PY0410231493 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Through an official note, the Brazilian Government reiterated its solidarity with the Russian people and its support for President Boris Yeltsin's commitment to consolidating democracy in that country. The note states that the Brazilian Government has been concerned about the reports on the latest events in Moscow and that it is confident that the current institutional crisis within Russia will be rapidly overcome.

Constitutional Review Topics Viewed

PY0410132493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Controversial Topics: Economic Order"]

[Text]

Monopoly.

The Constitution views postal, telecommunications, and radio broadcasting services; oil and by-products research, exploration, refining, and transport; and electric energy as state monopolies. Of these topics only telecommunications and oil may stimulate heated debates among legislators. Postal services will probably continue under a federal government monopoly.

Controversy in the areas of telecommunications and oil is due to the fact that the Constitution determines that only state controlled companies may have concessions in

telecommunications, while Law 2004-53, which creates Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], grants that state company exclusive power to operate as a monopoly.

Radio broadcasting is already operating under private ownership through concessions. The same is occurring with the electricity industry. There is a good possibility that the latter will be authorized to grant distribution concessions directly under state responsibility.

Oil.

Breaking the state oil monopoly is one of the most controversial issues. Not one survey among legislators indicates that a majority favors eliminating it. Most legislators, however, consider that the state oil monopoly must be at least softened with the return, for instance, of risk contracts.

The problem with the oil monopoly is that it involves research, production, refining, transportation by sea and by pipeline, and that it involves crude oil, by-products, and natural gas. It is an area where differences of opinion within the government are the clearest. The Finance Ministry, for instance, favors breaking the oil monopoly, while the Mines and Energy Ministry opposes any significant change in the present status. Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero favors the return of risk contracts because they permit foreign investments in research. The PDT [Democratic Labor Party] and the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil] do not accept any changes.

Subsoil.

The national ownership of mineral resources will probably suffer deep changes. The Constitution establishes that only Brazilian companies with national capital can engage in research and exploit mineral resources. A Brazilian company with national capital is defined as a company where Brazilians own 51 percent of the shares.

Today very few legislators insist on keeping natural resources in Brazilian hands. Most legislators think Article 176, which discusses this point, must be thoroughly revised. Supporting this position is the fact that investments in research dropped drastically since the implementation of the 1988 Constitution.

Foreign companies already established in the country were forced to adapt to the Constitution, which required them to process the minerals extracted in Brazil locally. Companies that were not extracting minerals had to begin activities as minority partners (with a maximum ownership of 49 percent of shares) or sell their mineral deposits.

Enterprise.

The discussion of foreign capital in Brazil will be one of the most sensitive topics in the constitutional revision process. Despite the controversy over the entry of foreign capital, the government and Congress believe that there must be an opening for foreign investments.

Observers are betting on the end of the protection of national capital in the areas of minerals and navigation (cabotage transport). Both areas totally exclude foreign capital. The trend in Congress is to regulate current laws to reduce restrictions.

One congressional adviser said: "It is possible that legislators may replace the constitutional restriction with a restriction by law. This will be easier to adapt in the future in order to enlarge the national market." The government priorities include new investments to straighten out the constitutional regulation on investments of foreign capitals, encouraging reinvestments, and regulating the remittal of profits abroad.

Agrarian Reform

The Constitution empowers the federal government to expropriate unproductive land and to implement agrarian reforms through the prior payment of a fair indemnity. This payment is made in agrarian debt securities which mature in up to 20 years with a clause to guarantee their real value.

The PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] has already taken a stance on the agrarian reform in the Constitutional reform. Small properties, regardless of their productivity, as well as large estates that are productive will not be expropriated. The reform will only involve land that is inappropriately used.

The bloc comprising the PT [Workers Party], PDT [Democratic Labor Party], PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party], and the PC do B advocate a broad land reform, breaking up large estates and distributing the land among rural workers. It is not yet certain whether the agrarian reform will be broached during the constitutional revision. If it is included, the only possible change would be the modification of the terms of paying the expropriation indemnity: Payment would be in cash rather than in agrarian debt securities.

Interest rates

Article 192 of the Constitution sets, in its third paragraph, a ceiling of 12 percent a year interest by banks on credit operations. It states that charging more than this ceiling constitutes a crime of usury and is punishable by law. This has never been implemented as a complementary law as needed to establish the concept of real interest rates and punishments for those who violate the law.

There are different opinions within Congress over this issue. Deputy Benito Gama (PFL-BA) [Liberal Front Party-Bahia], the chairman of the committee in charge of drafting the regulatory framework for Article 192, estimates that the 12 percent interest rate will be eliminated from the Constitution. Gama said that deputies and

senators are aware that it is useless to establish a ceiling because the financial sector has the power to block the regulatory law in Congress. Gonzaga Motta (PMDB-CE) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Ceara], a rapporteur of the committee, has stated that he believes congressmen will keep the 12 percent ceiling because they consider high interest rates to be one of the causes of inflation.

Central Bank

The independence of the Central Bank [BC] from the executive branch does not depend on constitutional reform. To guarantee the independence of the BC in monetary and exchange policies, Congress only needs to pass a law on this subject.

The Chamber of Deputies has established a special committee to draft a bill on the regulation of Article 192 of the Constitution, which deals with the National Financial System. The BC's way of operating may be established in this bill.

Most congressmen advocate that, once the Senate approves their appointment, the BC president and directors should have fixed terms of four or five years. This formula might guarantee more stability in the management of monetary and foreign exchange policies. The BC board of directors currently suffers continuous changes. Since the beginning of the Itamar Franco Government, a year ago, the BC has already had four presidents. Most congressmen disagree with the total autonomy of the BC.

Finance Minister Views Deindexation of Economy

PY0410223993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Oct 93 p 23

[By "special correspondent" Sergio Leo]

[Text] New York—By late October, the government will send Congress a fiscal adjustment program to eliminate a $25 billion deficit in public accounts. By mid-November, if there are no stumbling blocks, it will be possible to present proposals for the stabilization program's third phase, involving the economy's deindexation. This information was supplied yesterday by Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Nevertheless, this deadline is not final at all.

The minister noted: "Mid-November is enough time for congressmen to decide on the issue of fiscal adjustment, the stabilization program's second phase. You know, however, how Congress is. A thousand problems may crop up."

Fernando Henrique admitted that the [economic] team has not reached any consensus on how the deindexation will be implemented, although the idea is to use a mechanism linked to foreign exchange. He discussed the World Bank and IMF studies on this issue, emphasizing that there are many recommendations and a single point in common: Fiscal adjustment is essential in order to prevent failure. The minister said: "Deindexation will be very easy after an adjustment has been achieved. It will not be difficult to launch the program's third phase with measures to fight inertia."

Since it depends on Congress, there is a single deadline for fiscal reform: February. According to the minister, this is the deadline for implementing stabilization without trampling on anyone. He said that for this reason the government extended the deadline to reach an agreement on the debt to private banks until February.

The minister said: "There is widespread pressure asking for a miracle. Since there is no such miracle, it is necessary to transform this pressure into something more specific through fiscal adjustment. I can only do something if there is such an adjustment." He optimistically completed a visit to the United States yesterday. The minister believes he supplied enough information to wipe out the idea that Brazil is not doing anything in connection with the required reforms. The minister noted: "The most important step was to supply information to wipe out Brazil's image as a large and dumb country. We are making the reforms in our own way, with our peculiarities."

Column on Economic Difficulties, Cardoso U.S. Visit

PY0410213393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Oct 93 p 22

[From the "Economic Prospects" column by Miriam Leitao]

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and the economic team had to make a certain marketing [preceding word in English] efforts in order to convince their interlocutors in Washington and New York of the progress achieved in the Brazilian economy.

The impression that Brazil simply no longer wants to cope with its problems spread among the officials of financial institutions. A [Brazilian] official, who yesterday returned from the meeting, noted: "Moreover, an incorrect belief is beginning to take hold now that through hyperinflation alone, the country will be able to achieve enough consensus to defeat inflation."

Yesterday, an economic team member explained: "The minister's work precisely involved explaining that there is an important microeconomic reform in our country that has not been sufficiently understood abroad." Fair or unfair, the current impression that people have of Brazil is the worst possible, a Brazilian official noted.

He is right to a certain extent. During last year's meeting, the IMF clearly demonstrated that it supported and trusted Brazil and then-Finance Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira. At a time when political uncertainty in Brazil was widespread with the likely fall of the then-president of the Republic, Michel Camdessus said:

"Reforms are being implemented." At that time, Marcilio said the fiscal reform would be implemented after the political issue's resolution. Camdessus already has talked with three other interlocutors from Brazil (Paulo Haddad, Eliseu Resende, and Fernando Henrique), hearing the same promise of fiscal reform in a short time.

Minister Fernando Henrique was much more convincing than his predecessors when he pledged that in October he would still "straightforwardly" discuss with the nation the ways of defeating inflation.

Surumu Military Maneuvers Begin 4 October

PY0410143893 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Report by Alicia Santiago]

[Text] Today the Army, Navy, and Air Force begin Operation Surumu in the Amazon Region. To participate in the operation, for the first time, troops had to be deployed 6,000 km. The operation will take place in the northwestern part of Amazonas State and the entire Roraima State. It will end on 10 October.

The operation involves 5,000 Armed Forces men, 37 planes, and four ships. Air Force and Navy units will support the ground forces by supplying transportation and patrolling the Blanco and Negro Rivers, which are tributaries of the Solimoes River. This operation to train the troops takes place in the region every two years and Operation Surumu was planned at the end of 1991. For the 1995 operation, the Armed Forces are planning to conduct similar training maneuvers at the Acre State border. Military attaches of neighboring countries have been invited to observe Operation Surumu.

Chile

President Expresses Concern Over Russian Events

PY0510013893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin began his work day in Wellington early in the morning on 5 October. The city has been swept by hurricane winds unmercifully. Aylwin is staying at Government House, where he met with opposition Labor Party leaders headed by (Michael Moore). The president then held a news conference. Questions were mainly on the painful situation in Moscow.

[Begin Aylwin recording] In view of the distance, what is happening in Russia is of great concern. The only thing we can say is that we hope a peaceful solution will be found to save the nation's unity and ensure an effective path of progress toward democracy. [end recording]

Let us just recall that the Chilean president visited Moscow and met Boris Yeltsin this year. To some extent, Aylwin became acquainted with that country's situation then. During the news conference, Aylwin was accompanied by Foreign Minister Silva Cimma and Minister of the Presidency Edgardo Boeninger.

Asked if he would agree to a call for a Security Council meeting on the situation in Russia, Aylwin said he personally did not think the UN Security Council has jurisdiction over a country's internal affairs. The president responded to a New Zealand reporter that the incidents in Moscow were in no way similar to the situation in Chile in 1973. Aylwin said Russia never lived in democracy, while the painful breaking of the institutional order in Chile changed a legendary democratic tradition in the country. He said the situation in Russia was much more complex. Aylwin also categorically denied that Chilean democracy is threatened. It is consolidated, Aylwin said, adding that there are problems that must be resolved as in any democratic government. [passage omitted]

Official Criticizes Peruvian, Bolivian Drug Effort

PY0410213593 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Jose Sotomayor, national chief of Investigative Police Antinarcotics Division, said Peruvian and Bolivian police are not interested in controlling drug trafficking activities:

[Begin recording] We are constantly asking them, through diplomatic and police channels, to become involved in this task. Of the 450 kg of cocaine confiscated in the country, 350 kg were found in northern Chile, this is categorical, especially near the Chilean-Bolivian border. But if you do some research on the work done by the police of the two countries in Tacna or at all the passages on the border with Bolivia, you will not find any information. [end recording]

Sotomayor also reported that the German Government has officially requested the extradition of Peruvian drug trafficker Jorge Saer Bezerra, who was arrested in Chile and is sought by the German courts for sending a million-dollar cocaine shipment to Germany. Saer was arrested by Chilean police during an investigation of the disappearance of former Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] agent Eugenio Berrios.

Colombia

Minister on Textile Import Suspension

PA0510030493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[From the "Up to the Minute Caracol" newscast]

[Text] Barranquilla—The suspension of textile imports is a measure that will not be lifted soon, Finance and Public Credit Minister Rudolf Hommes has told a group of Atlantico Department congressmen. He added that

the ban on textile imports imposed on the local port will be extended for at least one month.

Congressman Jaime Vargas Suarez said that Minister Hommes told him that this penalty was imposed on the Barranquilla port and airport because this city is the largest recipient of illegal textiles in the country. Mr. Vargas Suarez added that the finance minister will welcome all Barranquilla delegations; however, the suspension on textile imports will not be lifted immediately.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Administration Supports Yeltsin

PY0410182393 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Oct 93

[News conference with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy at Government House in Asuncion on 4 October to discuss his recent trip to the United States—recorded]

[Excerpts] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy has discussed his recent trip to New York and Washington D.C. and the different meetings he held during his visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

Asked about the current situation in Russia, the president said: The resurgence of vices of this nature are normal in countries that have experienced many years of oppression. Answering if his administration supports Russian President Yeltsin, Wasmosy reasserted that all democratic processes must be supported.

[Begin recording] [Wasmosy] The resurgence of vices of this nature are normal in countries that have experienced decades of oppression and dictatorship. I do not think this situation will prevail for long.

I believe democracy is being consolidated worldwide. This is why we must all realize that Paraguayans are fortunate in that there was no bloodshed in the our democratic transition process and that people were very civic minded. Moreover, this is the achievement of an entire society. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Has the government adopted an official decision to continue to support President Yeltsin [words indistinct]...

[Wasmosy interrupting] Yes sir, we will support all democratic processes. [end recording]

Venezuela

Gunfire, Troops Reported at Presidential Retreat

PA0510023593 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Oct 93 p D-1

[Report by Hernan Mena Cifuentes]

[Text] Numerous gunshots presumably fired by heavily-armed Honor Guard troops mobilized and posted at the presidential residence of La Guzmania in Macuto alarmed residents in this central seaboard region early yesterday morning. Meanwhile, members of the National Guard [GN] took up positions in Tacoa after being warned of an alleged terrorist plan to sabotage central power installations that supply electricity to Caracas and the seaboard.

A few hours later, military spokesmen, who refused to identify themselves toured the area around La Guzmania and admitted there had in fact been some shooting, adding that some troops had been mobilized. They refused, however, to provide greater details, saying they were "in a state of alert."

It also was learned that all of the military garrisons of the seaboard near La Guaira are in a state of alert in light of reports gathered by the intelligence services on an alleged terrorist plot to sabotage the installations at Tacoa, Caracas' main power plant that provides energy to the capital and parts of Miranda State and the central seaboard. Since Thursday, GN members have been patrolling the area near Tacoa and have taken up positions at strategic power installations.

Government Announces Exceptions to Value-Added Tax

PA0410124393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] The national government hereby informs the country that the Venezuelan people need not pay the recently implemented value-added tax, VAT, on the following goods and services: animal and vegetable products in a natural state or treated with preservatives; rice, corn, or wheat flour unenriched or enriched through complementary treatment; breads and pastas; meats in their natural state, including those subject to industrial processing; eggs; locally produced canned sardines; pasteurized powdered milk and infant formulas, including those made from soybean; medicines for human consumption, including vaccines; serum, plasma, or human

and animal substances prepared for prophylactic use; hydrocarbons and oil by-products, including gasoline; passenger transportation services by land, sea, river, or lake; banking services; insurance policies; educational services offered by institutions registered by the Education Ministry; books and magazines; dailies and newspapers; and public services offered by professionals in commercial transactions.

The national government assures the Venezuelan people that anyone violating these regulations will be punished in accordance with the law and asks Venezuelans to cooperate with the government by reporting anyone who may try to take advantage of the VAT to speculate with prices.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ukraine

PA0510044193 Paris AFP in Spanish 2054 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Caracas, 29 Sep (AFP)—Today, it was officially confirmed by the Foreign Ministry of the South American oil-producing country that Venezuela and the former Soviet Republic of Ukraine established diplomatic relations. A Foreign Ministry communique says that, effective this date, the two countries will be able to exchange embassy-level diplomatic missions to allow the development of bilateral cooperation and to strengthen ties. The agreement to establish relations was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers in New York, where they arrived to participate in the UN General Assembly.

Suriname

Opposition Boycotts Parliament

BR0410161393 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 2 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Surinamese Opposition Parties Boycott Parliament"]

[Text] Paramaribo/New York—The Surinamese opposition parties boycotted the opening session of the parliamentary year yesterday. They did so out of discontent with government policies. President Venetiaan, who presented his 1994 budget, condemned the members of parliament's attitude. He said the attempts by the opposition and trade unions to bring down the government were aimed solely at taking over power.

The strike call from the DA'91 [Democratic Alternative '91] opposition party has had little effect. Workers went to work normally on Friday [1 October] and only a few shops closed. However, public transportation was partially affected.

Yesterday in New York, Foreign Minister Kooijmans promised his Surinamese counterpart Mungra that the Netherlands would resume payments to Suriname when the IMF approves Suriname's economic reform program. An IMF mission is soon to visit Suriname on a fact-finding mission.